

elements completely through said temporarily flattened domed central panel.

39. The method of claim 37, wherein said piercing elements are blades that have an elongated cutting edge and said perforating step forms slits in said temporarily flattened domed central panel.

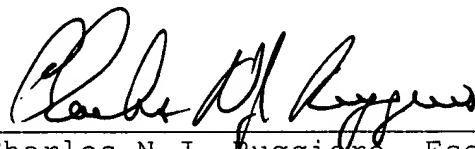
40. The method of claim 37, wherein said domed central panel has an undersurface and said flattening step is effected by pulling a vacuum against the undersurface of said domed central panel. --

**REMARKS**

Claims 14 through 17 are pending in this application. Claims 1 through 13 have been canceled. Claims 18 through 40 are added by this preliminary amendment.

It is submitted that pending claims 14 through 17 and 18 through 40 are allowable. It is respectfully urged that this application be passed to allowance.

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